

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, October 1, 1873, with transcript

3rd copy Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his father. 109 Delaware Street, Buffalo, New York, October 1st, 1873. Dear Papa:

I hope you have not yet settled up with Shuttleworth — as he has tried to cheat us in regard to the tickets.

I went down to the station last night and was fortunate enough to discover before going on the train that the tickets I had got were for the Erie Railroad. As I did not know that the Erie Railroad could issue tickets to Boston — I became suspicious that Shuttleworth had no authority to alter the word “New York” to “Boston” on the tickets as he had done. Accordingly we made up our minds not to leave Buffalo until I could see the ticket agent of the Erie Railroad.

The tickets were good only to New York — and Shuttleworth must have known this when he made the alteration on the tickets.

The Grand Trunk people here say the alteration goes for nothing, and the agent of the Erie Line thinks Shuttleworth has laid himself open to prosecution.

I have borrowed some money from Miss Locke, and we shall leave for Boston this evening at eight o'clock — via the New York Central.

Shuttleworth charged \$21.25 for the two tickets. The fare from Buffalo to Boston is \$2.65 American currency. I noticed that Shuttleworth had calculated it as \$2.30 Canadian. So that the two tickets enclosed should be worth \$16.65. If you get this from 2 Shuttleworth please retain the \$13.25 I owe you, and forward \$3.40 to me at Salem.

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I had to pay \$1.00 as cab-fare, \$1.00 for a bed at the Mansion House and \$.50 for breakfast this morning at the Ocean Dining Room, on account of the delay here. If we can get this amount from him also — tall and good.

I feel so mad about the affair that if he makes any hesitation about returning at all events the price of the tickets — I am willing to prosecute him for attempt to defraud.

I managed to see Dr. Hurd this morning for a few minutes. He has dismissed his housekeeper and lives in his house alone boarding out. Speaks of being very miserable — can't endure much longer as he is — won't try another housekeeper — but seems inclined to matrimony. Mrs. Locke says that report has already engaged him to a young lady here. I think a milliner — but report may err. However we shall see. I think Mrs. Locke is right. No clothes for baby. The Doctor will write to you this afternoon about baby. Grays well. Mr. Gray was at the Institution yesterday and will write an article on Visible Speech.

Love to all, Aleck.